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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

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Inspection Report

Minerals Regulatory Program

Date: July 14, 2009

Reviewed: RF

Mine Name: Opal Mine – ML 46957	Permit Number: S/001/0044
Operator Name: Stone Art Company	Inspection Date: 07/01/2009
Inspector(s): Brett Gregory for Tom Munson <u>RF</u>	Time: 10:00 am
Other Participants: None	Mine Status: Reclaim

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Concurrent Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Water Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Revegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Bond Amount: \$1,000.

Permit fee: delinquent for 2007 & 2008.

Purpose of Inspection: The operator has submitted a request for full site release. The application also came with a letter addressed to Tom Munson of the Division. The letter implies conditions at the mine have not changed from the inception of the lease and any disturbances made thereafter were supposedly from unauthorized people rockhounding.

Inspection Summary:

- 1) The permit fees have not been paid for the past two years in the amount of \$300 dollars. The fees need to be paid before the bond can be released. (Note - State lease transfers do not exempt the operator from paying all 'active' permit fees.)
- 2) There was only one small outcrop between four or five feet high that is stable and does not appear to be a safety hazard. I don't believe anything can grow on this outcrop and I recommend it be considered reclaimed. (See pictures.)
- 5) The roads getting to the site were improved and accessible. I was unable to make a determination whether or not these were pre-existing or part of the mining disturbances at the time of my inspection. This site has been a documented rock hound site for 50 years.
- 7) Several pre-act excavations and disturbances were evaluated. The operator has provided an aerial photograph of the site to address these areas. It should also be noted the permittee claims no heavy machinery was used

and that all mining had been done by hand. Unfortunately, the Division has no record if any attempts were made to reclaim these hand disturbances or if these hand disturbances caused any significant disturbance.

10) No documentation was provided suggesting the area of hand disturbances had been reseeded. Some plants are growing naturally and can be seen in the photographs. Due to the lack of suitable soil for revegetation, and the pre-existing facts presented by the operator, it is my recommendation the area be considered for closure.

12) I walked the area with a GPS handheld unit to map what is currently disturbed; and for possible future documentation.

(Photos attached)

Conclusions and Recommendations: The site meets reclamation standards. At this time, it is my recommendation that all past due fees be paid, the file closed, and the bond released.

Inspector's Signature

BG:vs

cc: John D Hechtle

John Blake, SITLA

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Lower rock hounding pit and possible highwall.



Rock hounding pit.



Main disturbance. (Supposedly pre-existing?)



Small amount of visible vegetation.